



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**Annual
ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE
Program Review
FY 2004-05**

November 2005

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Environmental Justice Initiatives Implementation Status

AQMD staff provided a status report on implementation of the 2004-05 Environmental Justice (EJ) Program Work Plan to Board Advisory Groups, Board Committees and other interested parties.

FY 2004-05

Category I: Further-Reduced Health Risks

I-1: Prepare a School Site Selection Guidance Document and Conduct Outreach to Area Public and Private School Districts

Status: Complete

Staff contracted with ICF Consulting to conduct a survey of all school districts within our four-county region to determine the number of new schools planned in the next five years. The survey was completed, with 46% of the school districts responding. The consultant prepared a draft guidance document which was sent to school districts for review, and a focus group was held to gather comments and suggestions for improvement. The Air Quality Issues in the School Site Guidance Document has been completed and will be distributed to school districts to be used as a tool in selecting new school sites or in expansion of existing schools. *(Related Board Agenda Item December 3, 2004 Agenda No. 3A, Execute Contract to Conduct Survey and Prepare Guidance Document for Appropriate School Site Selection)*

In FY 2005-06, staff plan to conduct outreach to school districts on the guidance document.

I-2: AB 2588 Emissions Data on AQMD's Website

Status: Complete

Staff developed an AB 2588 report that includes emissions data on toxic compounds by facility. The public can also search by year, zip code, or facility ID number and receive a summary of emissions data.

Staff has received significant comments from the Ethnic Community Advisory Group and the Home Rule Advisory Group regarding enhancements to consider for next year. Staff proposes to include an enhanced AB 2588 website as part of a future EJ Work Plan which could include on-line emissions data, including information on health risks of the most common air toxics and links to other web sites for related information. *(Related Board Agenda Item April 1, 2005 Agenda No. 27, Annual Report for 2004 on AB 2588 Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program and CHAPIS)*

I-3: Continue to Support the Community Health Air Pollution Information System (CHAPIS)

Status: Complete

Staff has worked with CARB on the development of CHAPIS, a web mapping tool for air emissions. The first set of data released included large facilities, such as refineries and power plants. New data additions include gas stations, dry cleaners and chrome platers.

The District has consolidated emissions reporting for criteria and toxic air pollutants, which has resulted in significant improvements in the toxic air pollution inventory. Staff will continue to provide timely reports on the latest available information to CHAPIS which will improve estimates for both large and small source categories, and make emissions data more accessible to the public.

AQMD will send reported emissions data to CARB each year and over time, additional information for industry-wide categories for AB 2588.

Category II: Greater Community Access & Involvements

II-1: Smoke School

Status: Complete

Staff held two “smoke schools” for local community leaders, residents and business representatives to teach them techniques used to identify potential visible air pollution emissions. The classes were taught by CARB staff and were held on January 25 and July 28.

Attendees were also provided with information on the more comprehensive Visible Emissions Evaluation course which they could pursue for certification by CARB.

As requested by the EJ Advisory Group, Peter Mieras, District Prosecutor, provided clarification regarding enforcement actions based on private citizen’s observations. Mr. Mieras stated that the District does not have the authority to take enforcement action based solely on violations reported through a private citizen’s observation. He noted that the training of community members on visible emissions is a relatively small portion of the training that is required for certification of inspectors. However, AQMD has great interest in having private citizens trained in reading opacity, as well as other aspects of visible emissions training.

II-2: AQMD Permits on the Website

Status: On-going

During this period, IM staff assessed the volume of permits, associated resources and criteria to be used to list the permits on the web. Also, security and confidentiality concerns were addressed. There are approximately 500,000 permits on file, including both active and inactive permits. Completed permit application files are currently sent to

staff in the Record Room for scanning into the District's Electronic Document Management System. The information on the permit (Facility Name, Location Addresses) is indexed to make it easier for the public to search based on various fields.

Staff had initially planned on providing basic search capabilities for viewing permits on the website. Based on review and comments from Advisory Groups, staff now plans on providing expanded search capabilities associated with viewing permits on the website to improve public access to District documents. As a result, the deployment of permits on the website has been delayed, but is expected soon.

II-3: Web Casting AQMD Governing Board Meetings

Status: Complete

Beginning with the July 8, 2005 Governing Board meeting, the public can now watch AQMD Board meetings live via the Internet. Live webcasting delivers a live video signal in real time to web viewers. The current system can handle both dial-up and broadband connections. Additional connections can be purchased incrementally to accommodate expanded use of webcasting.

Also, a webcast calendar has been established which provides the public with a schedule of prerecorded and upcoming live AQMD webcasts. Each event has a direct link to the webcast stream and a link to the event information.

A video-on-demand option is also available on the AQMD's web page for viewing of video and audio archives of the past 12 months of Board meetings.

(Related Committee Agenda Item May, 13, 2005, Administrative Committee, Agenda No. 5, Report on Environmental Justice Initiative II-3 Web Casting District Meetings).

II-4: Create An Air Quality Institute

Status: Ongoing

Staff has polled the members of the Environmental Justice Advisory Group for recommendation(s) on potential participants for an Air Quality Institute Task Force, as well as identification of organizations or training sessions for partnership. Focus of the Institute is to inform decisionmakers about AQMD, air quality issues affecting the region and efforts to achieve federal and state health standards, including:

- Federal Legislators: (Congressional members and staff)
- State Legislators: (Assembly Members, State Senators and their respective staffs)
- Local Elected Officials: (Mayors, City Council Members, School Board Members and other agency members)
- Key Stakeholders: (community leaders, business leaders, and participants in Chamber leadership classes)

Air Quality Institutes could be held in varying formats depending on the audience and focus. Staff proposes that the implementation of the Air Quality Institute be included in the FY 2005-06 Environmental Justice Program Work Plan.

This item is also being proposed as a separate project to be funded through an extension of an existing consultant contract for ethnic outreach.

II-5: Develop an Environmental Justice Electronic “Action Alert”

Status: Complete

Electronic action alerts have been used to inform EJ organizations, Clean Air Congress members and others about important air quality issues during 2005. Alerts are e-mailed to organizations and also posted on AQMD’s website on the EJ web page for access by the public (www.aqmd.gov, sequential menu selections Community/Environmental Justice.)

Future enhancements may include notices of funding opportunities for clean fuels programs and other areas, so that communities, local governments, and businesses can be aware of such opportunities.

II-6: MATES III Community Briefings

Status: Ongoing

Updates on MATES III were presented to AQMD advisory committees. Sampling sites are the same as the MATES II sites. There will be expanded analysis of particulate matter samples to better characterize source contributions, including diesel exhaust particulate. Due to the unusual amount of rain last fall and winter, the Governing Board has approved the continuation of the sampling period through March 2006. Community briefings will begin after AQMD staff has analyzed the findings. *(Related Board Agenda Item: May 6, 2005—Agenda No. 41 Approve Request for Additional Resources to Conduct MATES-III Monitoring for Additional Year)*

II-7: Air Quality Classes on AQMD’s Website

Status: Ongoing

Staff has completed a review of a portion of the District’s inventory of videos that have been developed to provide outreach, training and compliance information to the community for various industry groups.

The following four videos have been identified for posting on the proposed web-based training site, for a broad spectrum of possible viewers, including children. The goal is to provide general information about the agency, South Coast air quality challenges, and some generic training information.

1. *A Breath of Air (Español)*
2. *Clearing California Skies*
3. *Hydrogen: The Safe and Clean Fuel*
4. *With Every Breath: Health Effects of Smog (Español)*

It has been recommended that these training videos be highlighted in a web-posted schedule which would include a brief description on each video topic, course content and length of video. Staff expects to post all videos on AQMD's website by year's end.

II-8: Reinstate the Environmental Justice Advisory Group

Status: Complete

A 21-member Environmental Justice Advisory Group comprised of representatives of environmental justice, community groups, business organizations, local government groups, and trade or industry groups has been formed. The Group has met twice (March and July 2005) to review the status of the current Environmental Justice Program Work Plan and provide input on the development of the next year's plan. (*Related Committee Item: December 10, 2004 Administrative Committee, Agenda No. 14, Recommendation to Approve Environmental Justice Advisory Group and May 13, 2005 Administrative Committee, Agenda No. 15, Recommendation to Add Two Members to the Environmental Justice Advisory Group*).

II-9: Improve Opportunities for Public Participation in Permit Decisions

Status: Complete

Staff reviewed the permitting process to identify opportunities to improve timelines and distribution of public notices about permit applications and permit conditions.

This issue was discussed with the Permit Streamlining Taskforce. There were two key recommendations made: (1) Public Notices be placed on the web for public access and (2) that the purpose of the permit be specified. Based on input received, staff has developed the following:

- A form has been developed that staff in Engineering & Compliance (E&C) will use to send copies of Public Notices and Permits for Title V and other applications subject to Rule 212 – Standards for Approving Permits and Rule 1310 – (New Source Review) Analysis and Reporting. The information on the applications (Facility Name, Location Addresses, etc.) will be indexed to make it available for a search.
- Information Management has created a web application to search for the Public Notices by date ranges. Once the user selects a particular public notice, they will have the ability to view the permit information.
- E&C staff will modify the Getting Permits page on AQMD's website to link to the web application that IM has developed.

- E&C will send all new Public Notices triggered by the requirements of Title V, Rule 212 or Rule 1310 to the Records Room for indexing. Due to confidentiality issues, the Permit Applications will not be placed on the web.

II-10: Annual Summary of AQMD's EJ Program Efforts and Proposed Enhancements

Status: Ongoing

Staff has prepared a summary of the annual Environmental Justice Program Work Plan for Board review. Additionally, the Environmental Justice Advisory Group has provided feedback on the current year's Work Plan and has proposed program enhancements. In lieu of an annual work plan comprised of all new elements, staff is proposing to enhance select current EJ Program elements and recommend Board approval.

Revised 10/19/05